



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture welcome your interest in improving fishing opportunities in public waters of Michigan. Both departments are directly involved in managing and regulating the stocking of fish by private parties into waters of the state. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the agency responsible for protection and management of fisheries resources throughout the state. Department of Agriculture (MDA) is the agency responsible for oversight of the private aquaculture industry in Michigan, a source from which you can obtain fish for stocking. We have worked together to develop a stocking permit process that provides you with opportunities to stock fish as a private party, yet maintains protection of the state's fisheries resources.

As a private party, you may wish to stock fish into public waters of the state. To do so requires a permit from DNR. This permit is required to ensure that fish to be stocked are:

- 1) healthy and will not pose a disease risk to populations in the wild;
- 2) a species that currently exists in the watershed and do not pose long term management problems; and
- 3) a species that is compatible with the overall fishery management goals in a watershed.

The permit process ensures protection of the state's fisheries resources by preventing potential long range and expensive problems before they occur, thus improving fishing opportunities for all.

The permit process is detailed in the attached materials. It requires a purchaser or their agent to first determine if the water body to be stocked is public or private. Water bodies that have permanent inlets or outlets will require a permit, as fish will escape from these waters into public waters. Waters with no permanent inlets or outlets do not require a permit. Waters that have been stocked in the past by the state require a permit along with those that have public access. If you are unsure about the status of the water body you wish to stock, please contact any of our Fisheries Management Unit offices for assistance (see Table 1).

If the water body to be stocked is public, you will need to fill out an application (attached) and specify what species and how many fish you intend to stock. This allows DNR to determine if the species is permitted for stocking, and if it is compatible with management goals established for the watershed. It is also important for you to determine if the source from which you intend to obtain the fish is free of certain fish diseases (see Table 2), so be sure to enquire about the fish disease certification status of the source you intend to use. DNR recommends that any applicant obtain a copy of the disease certification from the source, as fish must be certified disease-free for stocking in waters of the state. Although providing a copy of the disease certification with your application will speed the processing of the permit, it is not a necessary step.

After you fill out the application form, submit it to the Fisheries Management Unit (see Table 1) responsible for the watershed in which you wish to stock fish. If you need help determining the right office, feel free to contact any Fisheries Management Unit Office. It is a good idea to send copies of your application form to multiple individuals in the Fisheries Management Unit to ensure that it gets processed promptly. The same is also true for follow up emails and other inquiries as our staff is frequently in the field and may not see your message. By sending emails to multiple staff, you will get a response back much quicker. Our fisheries staff will review the permit and provide you with either an approved permit or a letter detailing why the permit was denied.

Once you have an approved permit, you can stock your fish. Please be sure to contact our Fisheries Management Unit Office about the stocking at least two calendar days before it occurs. Also be sure that either an original or a copy of the Public Waters Fish Stocking Permit is on site during the stocking. After stocking, be sure to submit the Public Waters Fish Stocking Report to DNR. This data will be input into our databases and will become a permanent part of the fisheries management record for the watershed.

Both DNR and MDA are appreciative of your interest in the state's fisheries resource. We hope this process will meet your needs.

Good Fishing to All,

Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D.
Chief
Department of Natural Resources
FISHERIES DIVISION

Steven Halstead, D.V.M.
Chief
Department of Agriculture
ANIMAL INDUSTRY DIVISION

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Division**

PUBLIC WATERS STOCKING PERMIT PROCESS

November 1, 2004 through December 31, 2005

- 1) It is the responsibility of the purchaser or their agent to determine if a permit is required to stock fish into a water body. If a Public Waters Stocking Permit is necessary, the purchaser or their agent must obtain the permit prior to any stocking event. A copy of the Public Waters Stocking Permit Application is in Attachment 1.
 - a) If the water body to be stocked is permanently connected to public water bodies via an inlet or outlet, the purchaser or their agent must obtain a Public Waters Stocking Permit.
 - b) If the water body to be stocked is not permanently connected to any other water body, it does not require a Public Waters Stocking Permit unless it meets one of the two following conditions.
 - i. If the water body has public access, the purchaser or their agent must obtain a Public Waters Stocking Permit.
 - ii. If the water body has been stocked at anytime in the past by the state, the purchaser or their agent must obtain a Public Waters Stocking Permit.
 - c) If unsure of the need for a permit to stock a water body, the purchaser or their agent may request assistance from any Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Management Unit Office. The offices and fisheries biologists are listed in Table 1.
- 2) The purchaser or their agent can obtain an application for a Public Waters Stocking Permit from any DNR Fisheries Management Unit Office, from the DNR Internet site (www.michigan.gov/dnr) or from any private aquaculture facility.
- 3) The purchaser or their agent must return the completed Public Waters Stocking Permit Application to the DNR Fisheries Management Unit Office responsible for the watershed that is to be stocked. See attached Table 1 to determine which office is the appropriate location.
- 4) DNR Fisheries Management Unit staff will employ the following guidelines in its review of the permit application:
 - a) Disease status of the private aquaculture facility. Lists of emergency fish, reportable and diseases of concern are in attached Table 2.
 - i) Emergency Fish Diseases - If the facility has a valid disease free certification for emergency fish diseases, the fish can be stocked in public waters. If the facility does not have a current or valid disease-free certification for emergency fish diseases, the permit shall be denied.
 - ii) Reportable Disease - If the facility has a known reportable disease, additional review shall be conducted before approving any stocking. The existence of reportable diseases at a facility will not automatically cause the denial of the permit but will require additional consultation with fish health experts from DNR and MDA prior to the issuance of the permit to determine if there are potential resource impacts from stocking the fish. If there is no potential for resource impacts then the fish can be stocked in public waters. If there is the potential for resource impacts then the permit will be denied.

PUBLIC WATERS STOCKING PERMIT PROCESS *(continued)*

- iii) Diseases of concern - If the facility has a known disease of concern, additional review shall be conducted before approving any stocking. The existence of diseases of concern at a facility will not automatically cause the denial of the permit but will require additional consultation with fish health experts from DNR and MDA prior to the issuance of the permit to determine if there are potential resource impacts from stocking the fish. If there is little or no potential for resource impacts then the fish can be stocked in public waters. If there is the potential for resource impacts then the permit will be denied.
 - b) Species analysis – If the species has been approved for stocking in waters of the state, the fish can be stocked in public waters. If the species has not been approved for stocking in waters of the state, the permit shall be denied. The list of approved species for fish stocked can be found in Table 3.
 - c) Management implications of the stocking – If the stocking action is consistent with DNR's management objectives for the water body and watershed to be stocked, the fish can be stocked in public waters. If the stocking action is not consistent with DNR's management objectives for the water body and watershed to be stocked, the permit shall be denied.
- 5) After review of the application, the Fisheries Management Unit will determine if the permit is to be approved or denied based on Sections 4 a, b and c above, taken in their entirety.
 - 6) Within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the permit application, the Fisheries Management Unit shall provide either an approved permit to the purchaser or their agent, or a letter of permit denial designating the rationale for denial based on Sections 4 a, b, and c above, taken in their entirety (see Attachment 2).
 - 7) Purchaser or their agent must notify the appropriate Fisheries Management Unit of the actual date of stocking at least two (2) calendar days prior to occurrence of the stocking event. This notification can be done via letter, telephone, or e-mail. Upon receipt of notification, the Fisheries Management Unit shall provide a response to the purchaser or their agent that notification of the actual stocking date has been received.
 - 8) The permit must be available on site when fish are stocked into public waters.
 - a) If a private aquaculture operation is to do the stocking, they must have the original or a copy of the valid Public Waters Stocking Permit on site during stocking.
 - b) If the purchaser or their agent is to do the stocking, they must have the original valid Public Waters Stocking Permit on site during stocking.
 - 9) Within 14 days calendar days of the actual public waters stocking event, a signed Public Waters Stocking Report (see Attachment 2) shall be sent to the Fisheries Management Unit that issued the permit.
 - 10) Upon receipt of the report, the Fisheries Management Unit shall:
 - a) Record receiving the report.
 - b) Enter the data into the DNR's Fish Stocking Information System database.
 - c) Provide a response to the party that the report was received and processed.

Table 1. DNR Fisheries Management Unit Offices.

BASIN/WATERSHEDS	STAFF	OFFICE LOCATION	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
Lake Superior Basin Coordinator	Steve Scott	Newberry	906-293-5131	scottsj@michigan.gov
Western Lake Superior West of the Chocolay River to Ironwood	George Madison Brian Gunderman	Baraga Baraga	906-353-6651 906-353-6651	madisong@michigan.gov gunderb@michigan.gov
Eastern Lake Superior Chocolay River to Sault Ste. Marie	Robert Moody Jim Waybrant	Newberry Newberry	906-293-5131 906-293-5131	moodyr@michigan.gov waybranj@michigan.gov
Lake Michigan Basin Coordinator	James Dexter	Plainwell	616-685-6851	dexterjx@michigan.gov
Northern Lake Michigan All Upper Peninsula - Lake Michigan watersheds	Michael Herman Darren Kramer Bill Ziegler	Escanaba Escanaba Crystal Falls	906-786-2351 906-786-2351 906-875-6622	hermanm@michigan.gov kramerd@michigan.gov zieglerw@michigan.gov
Central Lake Michigan Mackinac Bridge to Muskegon River	Thomas Rozich Mark Tonello Todd Kalish Rich O'Neal	Cadillac Cadillac Traverse City Twin Lake	231-775-9727 231-775-9727 231-922-5280 231-788-6798	rozicht@michigan.gov tonellom@michigan.gov kalisht@michigan.gov onealr@michigan.gov
Southern Lake Michigan South of Muskegon River to Indiana Border	Jay Wesley Gregg Smith Scott Hanshew Amy Harrington	Plainwell Plainwell Plainwell Comstock Park	616-685-6851 616-685-6851 616-685-6851 616-784-1808	wesleyjk@michigan.gov smithkrm@michigan.gov hanshewsk@michigan.gov harringa@michigan.gov
Lake Huron Basin Coordinator	Tammy Newcomb	Lansing	517-373-3960	newcombt@michigan.gov
Northern Lake Huron St. Marys River to Au Sable River	David Borgeson Tim Cwalinski Neal Godby Steve Sendek	Gaylord Gaylord Gaylord Grayling	989-732-3541 989-732-3541 989-732-3541 989-348-6371	borgesedl@michigan.gov cwalinst@michigan.gov godbyn@michigan.gov sendeks@michigan.gov
Southern Lake Huron South of Au Sable River to Port Huron	James Baker Kathrin Schrouder Joe Leonardi	Bay City Bay City Lapeer	989-684-9141 989-684-9141 810-664-8355	bakerjp@michigan.gov schroudk@michigan.gov leonardi@michigan.gov
Lake Erie Basin Coordinator	Kurt Newman	Lansing	517-241-3623	newmankr@michigan.gov
Lake Erie South of Port Huron to Ohio border	Gary Towns Jim Francis Jeff Braunscheidel	Livonia Livonia Livonia	734-953-0241 734-953-0241 734-953-0241	townsg@michigan.gov francisj@michigan.gov braunscj@michigan.gov

Baraga DNR Office 427 US 41 North Baraga, MI 49908	Crystal Falls DNR Office 1420 US 2 West Crystal Falls, MI 49920	Lapeer State Game Area DNR Office 3116 Vernon Road Lapeer, MI 48446	Traverse City DNR Office 970 Emerson Traverse City, MI 49686
Bay City DNR Office 503 N. Euclid Ave., Suite 1 Bay City, MI 48706	Escanaba DNR office 6833 Hwy. 2, 41 & M-35 Gladstone, MI 49837	Livonia DNR Office 38980 Seven Mile Road Livonia, MI 48152	Twin Lake DNR Office 7550 E. Messenger Road Twin Lake, MI 49457
Cadillac DNR Office 8015 Mackinaw Trail Cadillac, MI 49601	Gaylord DNR Office 1732 M-32 West Gaylord, MI 49735	Newberry DNR Office 5100 State Highway M-123 Newberry, MI 49868	
Comstock Park DNR Office 195 6-Mile Rd. NE Comstock Park, MI 49321	Grayling DNR Office R#3, 1955 N. I-75 BL Grayling, MI 49738	Plainwell DNR Office 621 N. 10 th Street Plainwell, MI 49080	

Table 2. Emergency fish diseases, reportable fish diseases (Michigan Department of Agriculture Reportable Animal Diseases) and fish diseases of concern in the State of Michigan.

Reportable and Emergency Fish Diseases

Disease Agent	Disease Name	Approved Fish Species Affected
<i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i>	Furunculosis	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout
<i>Ceratomyxosis shastal</i>	Ceratomyxosis	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout
EED Virus	Epizootic Epitheliotropic Disease	Lake trout
EHN Virus	Epizootic Hematopoietic Necrosis	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout
IHN Virus*	Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout
IPN Virus*	Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout
<i>Myxobolus cerebralis</i> *	Whirling Disease	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout
Myxosporean agent PKD	Proliferative Kidney Disease	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout
<i>Onchorhynchus masou</i> Virus	Onchorhynchus masou Virus Disease	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout
<i>Renibacterium salmoninarum</i>	Bacteria Kidney Disease	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout
Rhabdovirus – Spring Viremia of Carp Agent	Spring Viremia of Carp	Koi, common carp
VHS Virus*	Viral Hemorrhagic Septicaemia	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout
<i>Yersinia ruckeri</i>	Enteric Redmouth	Atlantic Salmon, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout

* Fish must have certified free of these shaded emergency fish diseases to be permitted for stocking in public waters.

Fish Diseases of Concern – These are emerging diseases on the watch list for future action.

Disease Agent	Disease Name	Fish Species Affected
Ranavirus	Largemouth Bass Virus	Largemouth bass
Heterosporis	Heterosporis	Yellow perch
Iridovirus	Sturgeon Virus	Lake sturgeon

Fish being imported from known or suspected areas for heterosporis will need to be certified free of this disease to be permitted for stocking in public waters.

Table 3. Approved list of species that can be stocked into public waters of the State of Michigan.

SPECIES
Atlantic Salmon
Black Bullhead
Black Crappie
Bluegill
Bluntnose Minnow
Brook Trout
Brown Bullhead
Brown Trout
Channel Catfish
Common Shiner
Emerald Shiner
Fathead Minnow
Flathead Catfish
Golden Shiner
Green Sunfish
Hybrid Sunfish
Lake Herring
Lake Trout
Lake Whitefish
Largemouth Bass
Muskellunge
Northern Pike
Northern Redbelly Dace
Pumpkinseed
Rainbow Trout
Redear Sunfish
Rock Bass
Smallmouth Bass
Walleye
Warmouth
White Bass
White Crappie
Yellow Bullhead
Yellow Perch

Attachment 1. Public Waters Stocking Permit Application

Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division

APPLICATION TO STOCK FISH INTO MICHIGAN PUBLIC WATERS

Under authority of Section 48735 of Part 487, Sport Fishing, of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, **stocking fish into the public waters of the State of Michigan is prohibited without an approved permit.** Failure to comply with the conditions of this Act and permit shall be cause for revocation of this permit. The penalty for stocking fish into public waters of the state without a permit is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

PERMITTEE INFORMATION

Applicant's Name	Telephone Number () -
Street Address	City, State and Zip Code

WATER TO BE STOCKED

Waterbody Name	Size (Acres)	County	Township	Range	Section(s)	Approximate Stocking Date
Name of Inlets and/or Outlets			Is Water to be Stocked Open to Public Fishing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Purpose of Stocking						

SOURCE OF FISH

MDA Facility Registration Number	Telephone Number () -	Facility Manager's Name	Telephone Number () -
Street Address		Street Address	
City, State and Zip Code		City, State and Zip Code	

FISH TO BE STOCKED

Species	Stock or Strain	Size (Inches) or Age	Number
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FOR TROUT AND SALMON ONLY

The trout and salmon for stocking must come from a facility with a certificate or report of fish health designating disease free status that includes all facilities through which said fish have passed.

Aquaculture Facility has a Current Fish Health Certificate(s) or Report(s) of Fish Health? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I hereby certify that all information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.

Purchaser or Agent's Signature

*Date***Return completed application to:****Fisheries Management Unit Office Responsible for the Watershed to be Stocked (see Table 1)****FOR DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES USE ONLY****APPLICATION IS:** ☐ **APPROVED** ☐ **DENIED** (see attached denial letter)

Permit Number: _____

Issue Date: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Approved Action:

Attachment 2. Public Waters Stocking Permit and Report



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division

PERMIT TO STOCK FISH INTO MICHIGAN PUBLIC WATERS

This permit is issued under the authority of Section 48735 of Part 487, Sport Fishing, of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended. Failure to comply with the conditions of this Act and permit shall be cause for revocation of this permit. The penalty for stocking fish into public waters of the state without a permit is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

PERMIT TO STOCK FISH INTO PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

APPLICATION IS: ☐ APPROVED ☐ DENIED (see attached denial letter)

Permit Number: _____
Issue Date: _____
Expiration Date: _____

Approved Action:

By: _____
Department Signature Title Date

LAWS, CODES AND PERMITS. Permittee recognizes that this permit does not obviate other requirements of federal, state, or local law. Permittee agrees to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and codes, and shall obtain any necessary permits in connection with the activities that are the subject of this permit.

LIABILITY. Permittee hereby releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all liability to Permittee, its officers, employees and agents, for all losses, injury, death or damage, and any claims or demands thereto, on account of injury to person or property, or resulting in death of Permittee, its officers, employees or agents, in reference to the activities authorized by this permit.

INDEMNIFICATION. Permittee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and save harmless, the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all claims and demands, for all loss, injury, death or damage, that any person or entity may have or make, in any manner, arising out of any occurrence related to (1) issuance of this permit; (2) the activities authorized by this permit; and (3) the use or occupancy of the premises which are the subject of this permit by the Permittee, its employees, contractors, or its authorized representatives.

I have read the terms and conditions contained in this permit. I agree to abide by same and assume all the obligations contained herein. Approved applicants or their agent will be required to submit a report detailing the number and size of each species stocked.

Purchaser or Agent's Signature

Date

Detach and Submit Private Fish Stocking Report within 14 days of Stocking

PUBLIC WATERS STOCKING REPORT

This report is required under the authority of Section 48735 of Part 487, Sport Fishing, of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended.

PERMIT INFORMATION

Purchaser or Agent's Name	Telephone Number () -	Permit Number
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WATER STOCKED

Waterbody Name	County	Township	Range	Section(s)	Stocking Date
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FISH STOCKED

Species	Stock or Strain	Size (Inches) or Age	Number
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I hereby certify that all information reported by me is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Purchaser or Agent

Date

Return completed application to:
Fisheries Management Unit Office
Responsible for the Watershed to
be Stocked Within 14 Days of
Stocking (See Table 1)